

## ELECTION REFORM

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I will now talk a little bit about election reform. Of course, that is the bill that is before us now, but we have not been able to move it forward in the last day and a half or so. Whether we will be able to or not, I do not know. No one disagrees, of course, with seeking to do something to make elections fair; to make the changes, if there need to be changes made, to make elections available to everyone on a free basis, an open basis, and a legal basis.

I am glad the Senate has taken up this bill. I happen to believe the major responsibility for voting, whether it be in Florida or whether it be in Wyoming, lies with the State. Where there are problems with voting, the State election officers, it seems to me, have the primary responsibility to do that.

One of the issues that has come up—not unusually, I suppose; it comes up in many areas such as health care, education—there is a difference between how you do things in New York City and Meeteetsi, WY. That has kind of become an interesting issue with regard to setting up voting standards and the requirements that need to be made for voting precincts. When one has a precinct that has thousands of people in it, that is one thing. Go to Wapiti, WY, with a precinct that may only have 30 to 40 people in it; that is quite different.

When I went home last weekend, we were talking about the proposal initially that there had to be a paved parking lot and access for the disabled. Everyone wants the disabled to be able to vote, and they were saying sometimes we have to look hard to find a place that has a toilet, so we need to do something about that.

I have talked with the chairman, and certainly we could, I think, come to some kind of an agreement. This bill currently requires each polling place to have a machine that is adaptable for ADA. I am a great supporter of ADA, as a matter of fact, and have worked very hard on that, but I think we have to be realistic about how it is dealt with. We have curbside voting, for example. We can do that for people who are disabled. We have these certain kinds of machines in every county seat, but to require that in some 400 rural polling places, as we have in Wyoming, would be extremely difficult. Even though the return sometimes is, "Well, the Government is going to pay for it," regardless of who pays for it, some of it is not good use of taxpayer dollars.

I do not know exactly how it will end up. Perhaps we will not be having a bill if we cannot move it any more than we have. Perhaps we can continue to talk to the chairman, who seems to be receptive, knowing there are differences in how it is dealt with in one place or another.

I do want to say we have talked with the elected officials in Wyoming. As I said, our voting has been very satisfactory. We have a good many registered

voters. We had more voters last time than we had registered before the election who came in and could register on election day. It is really quite simple.

We are concerned, if we were required to have very complicated machines in every polling place, that that would not be appropriate. Instead, if we could offer the flexibility to where they could make proposals as to how to deal with voting for disabled and other voters, those could be viewed, and if they were acceptable, then they could do it the way they wanted to do it in that community.

In any event, I do not know whether we will have an amendment. If that becomes necessary—or perhaps we could have a colloquy with the chairman to deal with this in the conference committee—we can do that.

## TRADE AUTHORITY

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I have to respond just a little bit to my friend from North Dakota who talked about trade. Obviously, trade is very important for all of us. I am a little interested in how he thinks 435 people could negotiate a trade agreement. The idea is that the trade agreement needs to be negotiated and then brought to the Congress for approval. If it is not approved, it is not approved. I cannot imagine us trying to set up a trade bill and 435 folks trying to deal with that.

So I am not in agreement entirely that we ought to take away the trade authority to negotiate and then bring it to the Congress. Presidents have had that, and hopefully they will continue to have that.

The main constituency of the Senator from North Dakota, of course, is agriculture. Forty percent of agricultural products go into foreign trade. Obviously, we all want trade agreements to be fair and advantageous.

I also have to respond a little bit to the molasses issue. We worked on that for several months, and it has been cured, as a matter of fact. The idea that nobody stood up to it is not accurate. The court has ruled, and that is no longer being done. It was being done, and it was wrong, but we brought it up through the court, and it is no longer the case.

So trade is always difficult, and certainly I feel strongly about it from time to time, too. We are in a world where billions of dollars move around the world every day. We are going to have to trade. We are behind other countries in making trade agreements in South America, for example. So hopefully we can find a way to come up with agreements that will allow us to trade with other countries and, at the same time, of course, be as fair as possible.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Madam President, I have been meeting with Senator SCHUMER, Senator DODD, and others. There is some hope we can resolve this vexatious issue that has been so troublesome on this legislation. We are in the process of trying to work this out now. Senator DODD has been conferring with members of the minority all day in hopes that something can be resolved.

I ask unanimous consent that morning business be extended until the hour of 4 p.m. today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that morning business be extended until 4:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DAYTON). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to speak up to 15 minutes in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## DUMPED STEEL

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I have sought recognition to comment on a meeting which has been held with President Bush and Members of Congress from steel States concerning the plight of the steel industry and the decision which the President is scheduled to make on or before March 6, 2002. The President has initiated proceedings under Section 201, which activated an inquiry by the International Trade Commission. The International Trade Commission has made a recommendation that there be remedies to stop subsidized and dumped steel from coming